

# Launch Out Letter (LOL)

August 2019



## \$how me the Money!

She looked at me like I'm Beelzebub unleashed but I stood my ground and repeated the question to this discombobulated nun - "How rich do you want to be?" I was teaching a doctoral course on financial management to a class of university leaders composed mostly of priests and religious. I thought, if they were to learn how to raise money, the first step is for them to get into the mind of those who do it best - the capitalist. Part of the exercise is for them to reflect honestly on their personal belief about wealth and

the wealthy. As most people who work for the church, we revel in having some sort of moral superiority for not working for the money. The irony of this, is that we are also secretly beholden to the unabashedly wealth-seekers, enough to put them in our governance boards and shower them awards or even name a building after them (at least in the university-setting). Then the course concluded with the unlikely topic of Providence. As we are not just people of strategies, but people of Providence. To miss that out, would be our biggest lost.

So, what does it mean to be people of Providence? How does that translate when we are running organisations that barely have enough and the resources are increasingly becoming scarce? What does it mean to be people of Providence when strategies run out? The dictionary defines providence as provision from the divine. To be people of Providence is to believe and to live, that God provides.

There are some nuanced insights I gathered about Providence and the running of a faith-based enterprise: 1) Providence invites us to return to our foundational stories. This includes the story of Jesus and the women and men who laid the ground for our present ministry. Our foundational stories connect us to our core mission and identity - who we are and what are we here for. Their stories also demonstrate what Jesus' says about God's provision (Mt 6:25-33) and what we really need to concern ourselves with; 2) Providence comes in different shapes and forms, not just monetarily or material. This also means, we cannot control Providence; 3) We don't really fundraise or ask for people's money, we invite them to share with us the work of Mission; and 4) Providence suffices for what we really need, and Providence has a way of revealing to us what it is we really need. If we find the idea of Providence simplistic and unrealistic, we can turn to each other's lives to see how Providence operates. I am inspired by the personal stories some of you have shared with me, of being in a financial crisis to be surprised by the gifts that come just at the right time. A more public and familiar evidence is to speak with Kitty McKinley on how Challenge 2000 started. Everything we have and do, all germinated from Mission. Hence, when money runs out, our first search is to discern where the spirit of Mission is leading us, because **Providence follows Mission**.



PS: The nun, at the end of the course, suddenly exclaimed to the class, that she was able to apply what she learned. She excitedly boasted of being able to acquire a large tract of land her school badly needs---at the Bishop's expense!

-Maya, 01 Sept 2019



## Happy Birthday!

Greetings and blessings to **Patricia Lynch** who will be celebrating her birthday on **05 Sept**

## Updates

- 15 September – **PRAYER DAY** with **Mary Kay Jackson**. To be held at the Catholic Centre at the Lecture Room and the Cafeteria; 9:00AM-4:00PM, we are having a shared lunch.
- We welcome **Vicky Raw** of Blenheim as our new Launch Out Candidate. Vicky has joined LO previously and currently sits on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Vicky will join LO starting January 2020. You'll have a chance to meet her during the Project Presentation.

## Let's get to know each other

I realise not all of us are familiar with each other. Below is a brief bio of each of you. We are an interesting mix of women. It is amazing to see, how in our diverse backgrounds, we all come together in Launch Out.

**Telesia Alaimoana** - Telesia was born in Samoa, a mother of two and married to Simati. Telesia is a qualified Social Worker who currently works as a Facilitator Support of the District Health Board and has extensive experience in the health and disability sector. She is passionate about engaging with the Samoan community and finding ways to enrich their contribution to the Church. Telesia is currently active with Our Lady of Hope parish in Tawa and Titahi Bay.

**Lisa Beech** - Lisa originally from Australia, now living in Wainuiomata and a mother of Kaisa, Lakan and Datu. She is a fixture in ADW having worked in Caritas and Catholic Social Services. At present she is the Ecology, Justice and Peace Advisor to the office of the Archbishop. She is a student of Te Reo Māori and is working towards completing a Master of Public Policy at Victoria University. She is currently involved both with the Maori Eucharistic community based at Te Kāinga Catholic marae in Kilbirnie and Te Wairua Tapu parish in Lower Hutt.

**Theresa Begley** - Theresa hails originally from Scotland. She came to New Zealand as a child and grew up in Wellington. When Theresa and Rex Begley married, they moved to Palmerston North where they both worked in various roles in the Palmerston North diocese. After raising their five children they spent three years working at Southern Star Monastery [Kopua] before moving to Jerusalem/Hiruharama up the Whanganui River to work with the Sisters of Compassion and the local Maori Community at both Ranana and Hiruharama. They are currently living in Carterton within the parish of Wairarapa.

**Mely Kartawidjaya** - Mely was born in Jakarta, Indonesia. She was with the ICPE Lay Missionary Group, where she served as lay-missionary to Indonesia, Philippines and now New Zealand. At present she works as the Office Administrator of the Catholic Enquiry Centre. She along with her husband, Petrus and their two children, Michael and Viola, attend Wellington South Parish. Mely is passionate about children's liturgy and finding creative ways to engage young people into their faith.

**Patricia Lynch** - is New Zealand born of Irish descent. She has been teaching for eleven years and is currently Assistant Director of Religious Studies at St. Mary's College, Wellington. Prior to teaching, Patricia had a career in Air New Zealand. She has a Master of Religious Education from the Australian Catholic University. Patricia regularly participates in group prayer and is presently affiliated with Holy Trinity Parish in Kilbirnie.

**Jude McKee** - Jude was born a couple of weeks back - 1961 in fact – and in her immediate family she has two older brothers and a younger sister. She presently cares for her elderly mother and is a 'professional' aunty to her nieces and nephews. She feels lucky to be employed as the Office Manager with Wellington Rugby and The Hurricanes, given she has a love of the game of rugby instilled in her from birth by her Dad! In her sharing of her faith, Jude is passionate about bringing people together to pray, and to share their stories over a meal. She is very active within the Plimmerton Parish of St Theresa's and has a special interest in ensuring the youth of parish are actively involved in praise and worship.



2019 Retreat: From right-Jude, Theresa, Patricia, Lisa, Brian Cummings, Maya, Telesia (Mely, not in photo).

### Final Note:

Trust is one resource that grows with every use and depletes with the lack of. Sadly, even with our best efforts, sometimes it is not enough.



[Sometimes trust is not enough](#) (thank you Joan McFetridge)  
(click to watch video)



When he had finished eating, he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch".

Luke 5: 4